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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 36, Iss. 7)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Price 10 Cents

LOCALS

| LOCALS | | Total Amount | Wagon Pool \$2-Week Basis | Jan. 1 |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------|
| 374-Wasson, Wac. | \$1,100.00 | 106 | 123 | |
| 375-Birmingham, Ala. | 411.33 | 59 | 74 | |
| 376-Wentworth, Ala. | 530.33 | 51 | 64 | |
| 377-Knoxville, Tenn. | 4,075.98 | 392 | 476 | |
| 378-Flournoe, Ala. | 1,077.44 | 193 | 241 | |
| 379-La Crosse, Wis. | 3,000.00 | 164 | 205 | |
| | 5,880.00 | | | |
| | 824.19 | | | |
| | 733.36 | | | |
| 380-Shelbyville, Ind. | 1,815.01 | | | |

CENSUS (Continued)

1954 ILGWU CENSUS

PAGES 6-7

MEMBERSHIP

RECORD HIGH

SECTION WORK AND CLOAKMAKERS' JOBS

PAGE 9

'Writ' By Hand. When the striking workers of the Freyberg plant in Appomattox, Va., learned that the company had won injunctions restraining their activities, they invited the sheriff (left background) to a union meeting to serve them personally. The smiles are not in vain, either. The union has now won a counter-injunction blocking company intimidation of workers. (See story, Page 3.)

STOCK 3

Knit Workers Digest Politics at Lunchtime



Political Director Gus Tyler gives lowdown on tax bills to Laurel Knitting Mills workers.

Many propagandists proclaim that "politics is the property of the people" as blandly as they assert that "AT&T has 250,000 owners." Actually, in politics as in business, individual shareholders may dutifully cast their ballots at election time each year, but the real influence is wielded by organized minorities who work all year long. Last month, knitwear workers' officers and union political directors in New York opened fire in a campaign to reverse this trend.

Immediate objective is to swing Congressmen into line with labor's program to beat the recession, including raising of the minimum wage, tax reductions for lower-income brackets and more liberal exemptions for "special categories like working mothers."

The drive incorporates a new twist in political education: lunch-time talks. This idea was hit on by ILOUW Political Director Gus Tyler and Local 153 Educational Director Joe Shane at their surveyed mine.

reaching the greatest number of members in the shortest possible time. Each knitting shop is visited at least once. Workers "contribute" part of a lunch hour to hear a short talk on what they can do about their problems, ask questions and are told what action will do the most good.

The program is still in its first stages. Nine shops employing 700 have been visited so far, but well over a hundred remains to be covered. Even this small sample has evoked such enthusiasm from the workers that Local 153 Manager Louis Nelson was prompted to remark that, "As far as we're concerned, the program is already a success."

According to Tyler and Shane, this is the first time political action has been brought directly to the members in the shops.

Last week, their schedule took Tyler and Shane to Laurel Knitting Mills in Brooklyn. The firm's 100 employees took a quick lunch

and then gathered around while the ILOUW political director told them what the Eisenhower tax program meant to them. "If you're a working woman and must pay someone to take care of the kids, you can get a tax deduction on the cost—but only if your husband is dead!" explained why the minimum wage had to be increased to \$1.25 an hour ("... If times are tough and the boss can get someone to work for less, legally, is he going to pay you more?") and told them what they could do ("... Write to your Congressman and Senator. Tell them what's on your mind. Make them realize you know the score.")

This is the story that will be retold in knitshops shops all over New York. Of course, the directors of the program are hoping that the workers who hear these talks not only will take action themselves but will tell their families and friends what they think. It's about time the Big Business lobbies had a little competition!

INSIDE WASHINGTON

By David Williams

GOP 'New Look' in Defense Old Hat With Trick Mirror

WASHINGTON—I must begin by apologizing for something of which an observer of present-day Washington should never have been guilty—thinking too well of a politician and, worse still, putting my thoughts into print. Last month, carried away by my enthusiasm for the speakers' speech against McCarthy, I wrote of this "quintessential old Yankee" waiting to expel Wisconsin's junior Senator from the Republican "team."

Like Diogenes, we keep seeking through the mark of our nation's capital for the one honest man. I really thought I had found him.

New Senator Flanders has set me right. After looking in the television spotlight, and enjoying the flood of letters supporting him, he has backed down. He does not object, it appears, in getting McCarthy's "Twenty Years of Treason" clothes on the road against the Democrats. His fiercest feelings trouble him only when McCarthy roughs up his fellow Republicans.

In this he agrees with Vice President Nixon. It's fine, the Vesp elegantly told his nation-wide TV audience, to go out shooting rats, but Republicans should be wiser of their aim, lest they wing other bystanders (no word of sympathy was dropped for the innocent bystanders who sometimes get shot in the process). Rat-shooting, like everything else in this Administration, should be organized on a team basis. Nixon also made it clear that the Republicans still rely upon their once-in-two-punch for victory in November—an Eisenhower right to the jaw, followed by a McCarthy left below the belt.

In what was perhaps the most significant section of his address, Nixon drew liberally upon Eisenhower's prestige to justify the much-debated "new look" in defense policy—christened by the hucksters about the White House as "more bang for a buck." The decision "to rely in the future primarily on our massive retaliatory power which we could use in any direction, against the major source of aggression" was taken, he assured his audience, by the President himself, out of his unequalled competence in military affairs.

In this respect, however, the "team" seems to have got its signals very much crossed. The decision to abandon the "traditional" policy of "meeting aggression by direct and local opposition" (as we did in Korea) was first unveiled by Secretary of State Dulles on Jan. 12.

For the ensuing three weeks, the mighty speaker of the atom bomb hung over the heads of our allies as well as our enemies. Then, on Feb. 2, Secretary of Defense Wilson (who has never learned to act like a politician) blurted out: "I personally wish we would quit rattling the atom bomb." Admiral Carney, Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary of the Navy Anderson, and finally Wilson again declared that the United States must be prepared to wage a variety of wars, and would not rely exclusively upon the atom.

The "new look" seemed to have willed very rapidly, until Nixon put it on TV. Two days later, General Ridgway, the Army Chief of Staff, backed up Nixon by intimating that a "basic decision" had been taken and showing, under sharp Congressional interrogation, considerable uncertainties about it.

The very next day, however, Dulles virtually clarified the "new look" out of existence. All he had meant on Jan. 12, he said, was that the United States should have the capacity for strategic retaliation. There is nothing "new" about this. In fact, it is probably America's capacity for such retaliation which has, ever since Hiroshima, restrained the Soviet rulers from launching a third World War.

Are you confused? So is all Washington, so are our allies (to the extent that Foreign Secretary Pearson of Canada paid publicly for enlightenment), and so—dangerously—are our enemies. Are we going to counter every aggression of the Soviet world against the free world? Or are we going to act, with all our atomic power, only against aggressions to which we choose to respond? If there are some to which we will not react, won't there be an overpowering temptation to the Kremlin to see just what aggression it can carry through?

This is the basic question that Stevenson put at Miami, in a speech that was perhaps the only patriotic beginning in a long time. It is the question which, in the interest of all of us, must be answered.

End of a Fifty-Year Story



Formal ending of 50-year non-union existence of Bloomfield Co., Cleveland, O., is marked by contract beginning in that city. Organized earlier were firm's Carleton and Hamilton, O., plants. Seated, left to right: Karl Hoffman, for union; Michael L. Lopez, chairman of organization committee; Ohio-Kentucky Director Nicholas Kitzman; Howard Bloomfield of company; William Wenzel, counsel for firm; Timothy McMahon, union attorney; Standing: Robert Glaser, director of organization; Stan Seibel, Betty Glenn, Albert Kalfas, Henry Glaser, Vincent Anselco, for union.

Nachman Co. and Philly Dress Union End Suits; Firm Pays Welfare Funds

L. Nachman & Son, Inc., and the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board have agreed to drop federal suits against each other, but picket lines are still in force as the campaign to unionize the firm goes into its 22nd week. Joint Board Manager William Ross reports.

The company agreed to withdraw a \$250,000 "damage" suit and to pay \$10,000 sought by the union for health, welfare and retirement funds. The union had charged further that the firm, in violation of contract, had removed its plant to Easley, S. C.

Still pending before the Board of Review of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Employment Security are

cases of 73 workers who filed for unemployment insurance following a layoff last June which the company claimed was the result of a labor dispute. The firm recently withdrew its appeal against a ruling granting compensation after Dec. 30, 1953.

Two hundred employees of the Nachman firm have been striking since Oct. 28 when the company's mounting malpractices were brought to a head on the heels of these developments.

After the company president, resigned from his manufacturers' group, the firm refused to grant wage increases awarded by an impartial chairman; demanded to operate non-union shops outside Philadelphia; return for a contract; countered the union's refusal to accept such terms by laying off 80 workers; notified the employment bureau that the workers were involved in a labor dispute.

A picket line, in addition to the one around the Philadelphia plant, is also being maintained at the firm's New York showroom.

Board Sues Rosinsky

The Dress Joint Board has filed a \$250,000 damage suit against H. Rosinsky & Co., charged with failure to make payments to the Philadelphia Welfare Fund; pending work to non-union contractors and

or violations of the collective agreement.

The action is in conformity with a ruling handed down by the courts in the jurisdiction of the District Court. The case, in litigation since June, 1950, was originally ordered to arbitration, a decision which was later upheld by a higher court when the company appealed.

Jerre J. Rosinsky, head of the firm, contended "was not subject to the jurisdiction of the arbitrator chairman because the company had resigned from employers' association."

Strike at Gresham Hits at Discharges

Thirty employees at Gresham Needcraft, Inc., Gresham, Wis., have gone on strike to defend their right to join the union.

Spirits on the picket lines is very high, according to Midwest Regional Director Morris Ball. The strike was precipitated when the employer fired 23 workers who had signed ILOUW cards.

Meany and Morse to Get Awards at L.I.D. Lunch

George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Wayne Morse, Independent Senator from Oregon, will receive awards for distinguished public service from the League for Industrial Democracy at the group's annual luncheon, Apr. 19 at Hotel Commodore.

JUSTICE

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Joint Retirement Fund In Out-of-Chicago Area

Eachid notwithstanding, sixteen garment firms in the out-of-Chicago area proved last month that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. Acting on a suggestion by Vice Pres. Morris Bialis, the employees, each of whom had contracted with the union to set up a retirement fund for his workers, decided to pool their over-age contributions in one general plan covering all 16 shops. Result: the Central States ILOUW Retirement Fund was born.

This move was accomplished at a meeting called by the union on Mar. 9. Bialis, addressing the conference, reminded the employers that though each of them had a separate retirement fund agreement with the "ILOUW, no action had as yet been taken to implement the provision. As a result, no money had been received or deposited. He suggested that a central fund might be more efficient and time-saving than the separate plans then in effect.

Without further ado, this idea was okayed by the assembled employers. They then formally approved the depositing of contributions with the central fund and elected a committee to work with union representatives in formulating rules and regulations to guide the fund's operations.

Labor Lectures

The first two in a series of five talks on current labor problems by Joel Sedman of the University of Chicago Social Science Department were given on Mar. 16 and 20. Sedman's audience included a group of ILOUW chairladies and members of price committees in Chicago.

In his opening lecture, Sedman discussed "A Prosperity or Depression Ahead?" and "Legislative Proposal Affecting Workers." Future dates and topics include: Apr. 6, "Political Issues of 1954"; Apr. 20, "Foreign Affairs and Labor"; May 4, "The Labor Movement."

Give to AMERICAN RED CROSS

International organizers Robert Gladnick and Mary Kirtman and student organizer Irving Kasden have rolled up their sleeves to wage a full campaign to bring about better conditions for the workers.

Handmacher, Vogel Talks

Representatives of three Handmacher-Vogel locals in Kentucky have initiated negotiations with the firm for renewal of the contract, and talks were tentatively set for some time in April.

Participating in a conference Mar. 20 to outline the union demands were William Kaufman, manager of the Kentucky area, Kirtman and representatives of Local 481 of Glasgow, Local 526 of Harrodsburg and Local 472 of Lebanon.

Cleveland Conference

The first organizational conference of Ohio and Kentucky locals will be held May 22 and 23 in Cleveland, Kirtman announces.

To be discussed at the conference are organizational, shop, political and welfare problems of mutual concern to locals in the area. Pres. David Dubinsky, Kirtman and other ILOUW leaders will address the delegates.

Rice-Stix Employees Get Severance Pay

Over \$1,000, representing the first severance payments won in the Southwest region, was distributed to former employees of Rice-Stix Dry Goods in McLeansboro, Ill., last month. The firm made the settlement after deciding that it would not remain in McLeansboro, since no new plant to replace its out-moded shop was available. Dave Tupper of the union staff negotiated the settlement.

A unanimous vote approving the ILOUW as bargaining agent was cast by workers at Cross Sportswear Co., Princeton, Minn., on Mar. 19. The election, ordered by the National Labor Relations Board on request of the union, guarantees establishment of union standards at this new women's sportswear firm.

Strikers Granted Injunction Barring Freyberg Terror

Striking workers of the Freyberg plants in Appomattox and Lynchburg, Va., recently turned the tables in a neat switch when they answered the company's injunction with an injunction of their own. In a man-bites-dog situation, the strikers were awarded an injunction ordering the company to stop coercing the pickets.

Attorney Arnold Schlusberg of Roanoke, the union's lawyer, pleaded before Judge J. C. Flood in Appomattox that the instigators of all unlawful and violent acts were the Freyberg-Englander corporations and that they visited the facts to make the injured strikers appear as the wrong-doers. Judge Flood accordingly issued an injunction against the Appomattox Garment Co., the Lynn Manufacturing Co. and all of their agents, officers and employees.

It was a happy day for the strikers when injunction notices were served on company officials and each individual strikebreaker, and were posted as the doors of the plants. The decree restrains the companies from "harassment of force or violence, threats or insinuations of reprisals, intimidation, insulting or unlawful language or the actual employment of force or violence or other physical restraints to hinder, interfere with or prevent lawful picketing."

The strike, now in its twelfth week, has received a tremendous shot in the arm as a result of this injunction, which caught the two companies completely unaware. The union's victory "in this matter followed closely on the heels of the injunction issued against the strikers—at which time the sheriff was invited to a union meeting to serve the papers on the strikers. As each girl received her injunction notice, she was rewarded with roars of applause from her fellow members.

Each paper received from the sheriff was accepted as if it were a coveted high school diploma. As the officer doled out the documents he was rewarded with remarks like, "I'll see you at election time—A." "I'll remember you at the ballot box"—and like.

Meetings held weekly in the high school auditorium in Appomattox have grown to attendance at the point now where there have been community enterprises, with figures upwards of 800 at meetings that in the early part of the three-month-old strike had only 250 to 400 present.

The situation has settled down considerably in that arrests on both sides have tapered off to nothing. Pickets are undisturbed in their long trek at all entrances to the shops. About 30 per cent of the employer's normal force continues in strike-breaking operations inside the plants.

Production in the labor-buoying

Freyberg plants is so badly affected that his Virginia agent, Englander, has begun to lay off strikebreakers because of lack of work. The union has received a letter from the Virginia Unemployment Compensation Commission advising that several strikebreakers have applied for unemployment benefits.

Union officials and strikers have been encouraged by new expressions of support from a few of the elected officials and business men of the community who have finally begun to see the light and to understand that the battle being fought by the ILOUW and its members in Virginia is a fight for the self-respect of the town as a whole.

Last week a committee of 10 farmers, businessmen and workers not connected with the garment shops published an advertisement in the Appomattox newspaper calling

for the merchants and politicians to be fair to the union people and thanking those who had already shown a broadminded approach to the problem.

Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler, Upper South Department supervisor, and Manager Andy Bumbler have assured the workers that even though all efforts to bring the em-

ployer to the bargaining table have failed so far, the union will continue to give the workers all-out support until victory is won.

Encouragement has been drawn from the ever-increasing numbers on the picket line of Freyberg's Greensboro, N.C., shop, where the entire cutting department has joined the strike.

Cleveland Union Trains Sights On Hess, Contract Companies

Non-union shops in and around Cleveland have become the targets of a new organizing drive following the successful organization of three Bloomfield Co. shops in Cleveland, Canton and Massillon, Ohio. Kentucky Director Nicholas Kirtman reports:

Lined up in the union's sights are the Hess Manufacturing Co., cotton dress firm of Louisville, O., and the Contract Garment Sewing Co. of Cleveland.

The Hess shop, with 60 workers,

has no parent plant in Wheeling, W. Va. The Contract Co., in existence for several years, has been sowing anti-union seeds among its workers for some time.

"Gee, Thanks!"



Reinforcements on the Registration Front



Five members are added to executive board of Local 424, Johnstown, Pa., as affiliate readies its drive to insure registration of every member. Area is one of those designated by Political Department as "marginal" districts, where small percentage of vote can swing election. Assistant Manager George Griffiths, holding "One in Twenty" chart showing "fight" areas, outlines registration drive to board.

IN THE MARKET

by Leon Stein

Consumer Confidence Slips, Federal Reserve Bd. Shows

We have now arrived at that season of the year in which, according to administration leaders, it will be decided whether the nation can proceed without any special intervention of the government to correct economic imbalance or whether it will be necessary to launch a "dumb-bag" program to boost it up by its economic bootstraps.

The aggravating factor in seeing that the future is impenetrable. Even those experts who specialize in seeing ahead are compelled to admit that they deal only in first grade guesses.

Master of the situation is the consumer. The Federal Reserve Board takes an annual survey of consumer expectations. It has just released findings based on 2,800 interviews conducted this past January and February. The survey indicates that consumers have lost confidence even if they have not lost cash. With less confidence in their own economic future they are planning to buy fewer cars, less furniture, less appliances.



Among other findings of the survey was a consumer tendency to postpone purchases. About 14 per cent, as compared with last year's 10 per cent, expected their incomes to decline this year.

Some interesting theories have been advanced to justify optimism at this time.

One of these comes from the retailers who insist, among themselves, that business can be better if selling becomes more "spontaneous." You've got to pull the customers in with screaming ads, with merchandising, with hoopla sales. The consumer will buy if he is sold strong enough.

Another explanation for present consumer reluctance is found in the calendar. Apparently, the decline in sales is caused in large part by the lateness of Easter this year. Tough luck.

A third school of thought has been urging the nation to wait until those exorbitant taxes are cut and the customers will break down the doors to buy toasters and mixers and what-not.

The most interesting argument of all is the one that for a time has been advanced by the economists themselves who, in recent weeks, seem to have lost their initial enthusiasm for it. Sales are ahead of production, they insist, because manufacturers and retailers are getting rid of their stocks and inventories. As soon as they clear out their shelves they will have to place orders again for mere goods and we will be back on our feet again.

A certain amount of hesitation has crept into this type of late. With one thing developing on another it now develops that getting rid of stock has meant less work in the shops, less money in the pay envelope, less sales slips in the stores and less orders for the manufacturers. This is our old friend, the spiral. To stop it we will need confidence as well as cash.

10,600 Swell 35-Hour Week Ranks In 207 Eastern Out-of-Town Shops

More than 10,600 members of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department employed in 207 shops have won reduced working hours since the union launched its 35-hour drive last year, Vice Pres. Israel Horowitz told the department's staff conference last week.

EOT managers, business agents and organizers, at an all-day session, heard the department's general manager give a detailed report of the affiliate's activities, as well as highlights of decisions reached by the recent meeting of the ILGWU General Executive Board. In addition, Horowitz referred to a number of current union matters, including new rules and regulations of the Dress Retirement Fund, multi-plant contracts, and a review of the status of health, vacation and retirement fund collections.

Others who presented reports to the meeting were Adolph Held, director of ILGWU Health and Welfare Benefits and administrator of the Eastern Region Retirement Fund; Edward Kramer, and Abe Stamm, the general manager's assistants, and Sol Kapelshin, EOT general counsel, who analyzed legal problems facing trade unions.

Held, who disclosed that retirement applications of 43 EOT members had been approved by the Eastern Region Retirement Fund, instructed staff members on assisting workers in filling out forms necessary to obtain first benefit checks. In connection with Held's report, Horowitz indicated that all EOT locals will be arranging appropriate ceremonies to mark distribution of the first pension checks to EOTPF retirees.

Kramer, in pinpointing organizational developments, cited especially the union's success in winning such shops as Watertown Undergarment Co. in Watertown, Conn., and Kops Brothers in Ozone Park, Long Island, employing more than 500 workers. At the same time, he warned, employees resistance to unionization is stiffening. The fact that it is easier for them to obtain joblessness today than at any time during the last 20 years, and that in many localities police shun particularly management, better employers' anti-union attitude, Kramer averred.

Stamm, who detailed current conditions in the dress industry, described difficulties encountered in reaching price settlements. He stressed the necessity for continuing production without interruption while orderly collective bargaining machinery is at work.

Give to AMERICAN RED CROSS

1954 Eligibility Rules For Dress Retirement

Rules governing 1954 retirement of eligible dressmakers, for which registration starts Apr. 15, have been announced by the New York Dress Joint Board. These regulations are applicable to members of Locals 10, 22, 60 and 89, as well as those of out-of-town locals working for New York jobs, who wish to retire effective Oct. 1, 1954.

In these rules, the phrase "covered employer" means one who has or had a union contract during the years concerned. "Contributing employer" means one who contributes to the retirement fund under terms of the dress collective contract. To be eligible, members must be able to meet requirements listed under either "A" or "B":

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The member must be 65 or older as of June 15, 1954. 2. He must have worked in the industry in a union shop for the last 15 years. 3. He must have been employed continuously in a contributing shop since April 1945. 4. (a) If the member quit the industry before 1945, he receives one "credit year" for each two years of actual work between 1935 and 1945, for a covered employer. (b) In addition, the member receives one "credit year" for each year of last continuous employment for a covered employer in the industry. <p>Here are two typical retirement cases:</p> <p>Member X worked in a union shop from 1933 to 1943. He then left the industry, returned in 1944 and has worked continuously up to the present.</p> <p>In this case, the member receives five "credit years" for his ten years of work in the shop, prior to dropping out. He receives two "credit years" for the ten years worked continuously from 1944 to the present time, 1954. Member X therefore has accumulated 15 "credit years" and is eligible for retirement.</p> <p>In another case, Member Y worked in the industry from 1910 to 1930 and left the industry. For that period, he receives four "credit years," that is, one "credit year" for every five years of actual work.</p> <p>Member Y returned to the industry and worked from 1934 to 1943, and left the industry again. For this period, he receives nine "credit years."</p> <p>Returning to the industry again in 1947, he has worked continuously since. For the work period 1947 to 1954, Member Y receives seven "credit years." Member Y thus has accumulated a total of 20 "credit years," and is eligible for retirement.</p> <p>Additional information may be obtained by visiting the Retirement Department, New York Dress Joint Board, 218 West 40th St., fourth floor.</p> | <p>B</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The member must be 65 or older as of June 15, 1954. 2. He must have worked in the industry in a union shop for 20 years, however continuously or not. 3. He must have been continuously employed by a contributing employer in the industry, since 1945. 4. (a) He receives one "credit year" for each year of membership AFTER 1933, while working for a covered employer in the industry. (b) In addition, one "credit year" will be given for each five years of actual work BEFORE 1933 for a covered employer in the industry. 5. The total of "credit years" must add up to 35 or more. |
|--|---|

AWAIT NLRB RULING ON DISPUTED VOTES IN ELLIS ELECTION

Hearings by the National Labor Relations Board concerning the status of challenged ballots in the Connecticut Ellis plant elections were concluded Mar. 23, Vice Pres. George Rubin, manager of the Cloak Out-of-Town Department, announced.

Evidence was presented as to the eligibility of 125 ballots, the great majority of which were challenged by the company, that were cast in balloting held last Oct. 5. The score of ballots counted so far stands at 229 for the ILGWU and 248 for union.

Final decision on the questioned

ballots will be made by the NLRB in Washington. If enough challenged voters are declared eligible, it is expected that a union victory will result. In that event, the board will certify the ILGWU as official bargaining agent for workers of the Ellis plants in New Britain and Manchester, Conn.

At the hearing, the firm maintained that most of the challenged voters had been laid off "indefinitely" and thereby lost their employment status. However, evidence indicated that many of them had been told their layoff was only temporary, and a number have been called back to work.

Handling the case for the union were Morris Glushkin, ILGWU general counsel, and Charles Mandelstam of the Legal Department. Irwin Suss, who conducted the organizational campaign at the firm under direction of Vice Pres. Rubin, assisted.

Ring In the New



Shelley Appleton (left), new manager of Local 99, Office and Distribution Employees, is installed in New York in ceremonies attended by (left to right) Harry Sessly, executive board chairman, Pres. David Dineley, and Pres. Louis Stulberg, and Local 105 Manager Martin Cohen.

Pottsville Enrolls 225, Scores Raises for 250

Substantial wage boosts for 250 members and additions of 225 new workers to union ranks highlight the recent gains chalked up by Local 351 in the Pottsville, Pa., area, of the NE Department, District Manager Oscar New-

man reports.
A 6 per cent pay increase was won for members employed at Summit Station Manufacturing Co. of Pine Grove and the two shops of Tower City Manufacturing Co. of Tower City. The raises go into effect Apr. 12 at the Tower City plants, and Summit Station workers will receive theirs about the same time.
Both companies are covered by collective agreements of the New York dress industry. The Summit Station shop works for "Klone" and the two Tower City plants produce "Mago Walters" and "Sunshine Togs" garments.

Newly organized plants in the Pottsville area are the Alto Tex Manufacturing Co. of Minersville, which employs 31; the Carmel-Lau Dress Co. of Pottsville, 15; a branch mill of Summit Station located in Pottsville, and the MacLure Manufacturing Co. of Minersville, 48.
The Alto Tex firm makes short-sleeved blouses and miscellaneous sportswear, the Carmel-Lau shop produces dresses, Summit Station makes ladies' sportswear and the MacLure shop contracts on dresses. All the new shops have become

members of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Assn., with which the union has contractual relations.

Creation of New Styles Seen Undergarment Industry Need

Those undergarment firms that have had the foresight and ingenuity to anticipate new style demands of the consumer have been able to hold their own in a season that has not been good generally, according to Vice Pres. Louis Stulberg, manager of Local 65, New York Undergarment Workers.

On the other hand, the more inflexible, unimaginative manufacturer has found his orders curtailed and little work for his employees, Stulberg stated in reporting to the local membership on current industry conditions.

He cited especially the new trend in negligees, short garments to be worn in the home, which allow freedom for household tasks and at the same time are attractive and well styled.

Commenting on spring styles, Stulberg pointed out that the American woman has found greater comfort—and a becoming style—in the full skirt. Popularity of this skirt has produced a demand for the full petticoat (often stiffened) that goes with it, and firms that sensed this trend have "cashed in" on this line in many different materials.

Turning to the role of synthetics, the undergarment manager asserted that synthetic materials are not always comfortable for hot weather wear, nor do they have the body and crispness of cotton. As a result, he reported, their dominance in the lingerie field is waning, and for the past few summers styles have seen the return of cotton undergarments and negligees to the market.

Stulberg warned that, though many industrial factors maintain a hopeful outlook for the immediate future, the apparel trades are so greatly affected by general business conditions throughout the country that expectations for prosperous conditions in ladies' garments must depend on the health of the national economy—on the buying power of the general public.

Three Shops Bagged in Drive By Long Island EOT Locals

Sustained organizational activity by the Long Island, N. Y., locals of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department has resulted in unionization of three additional shops in the last few weeks, it is reported by Manager Jack Grossman.

Organization of the J. Salvo Co., skirt and blouse contractor of Richmond Hill, was achieved after a year-long campaign. The firm agreed to abide by terms of the industry-wide agreement by joining the Greater Blouse and Skirt Assn.

Workers won a reduction in hours from 48 to 36, with piece workers receiving a compensating wage in-

crease and time workers getting the same pay for the longer hours as they received for 48. Before they were unionized, employees had no paid holidays; now they will have six one-half.

Anna Zolp was named chairlady of the Salvo shop.

Laurens Apparel Manufacturing Co. of Springfield Gardens, another blouse and skirt contractor, also cut hours from 40 to 35 in joining union ranks. Piece workers obtained a compensating pay boost, while week workers, in addition to getting the same pay for the longer hours, received a further \$2 increase. Paid holidays standard in the industry also are provided. Dorothy Cohen was elected shop chairlady.

Also added to union ranks was Richer Skirt and Dress Co., dress contractor of Woodhams. This company has joined the United Popular Dress Manufacturers' Assn., and as a result workers will enjoy all benefits and standards provided under terms of the collective agreement in the New York dress industry.

Hours were reduced from 37½ to 35, week workers will get the same pay as formerly and piece workers will receive an percentage adjustments over and above settled prices on par with those in effect in the dress industry. Six one-half holidays will be paid for. Lydia Myers was elected shop chairlady.

Assisting Manager Grossman in organizational work at these shops were Business Agents Richard Corlone and Bert Cooyer.

ACCOUNTANT WANTED

Job is open for an accountant with the ILGWU. Son or relative of ILGWU member preferred. Half working time to be spent in Chicago and half, with travel, in surrounding Midwest area. Excellent opportunity for proper person. Permanent post. Write giving background, experience, salary desired. Write to JUSTICE, 1110 Broadway, New York 18, N. Y.

Chipping In for Good Health



On behalf of ILGWU, Vice Pres. Louis Stulberg (right) presents check for \$500 to Beth Israel Hospital Charles H. Silver Clinic, for Alumni Association Building and Maintenance Fund. Receiving contribution are Silver and Medical Director Maxwell Frank.

"IN OTHER WORDS . . ."

by Frank McFilla

Higher Minimum Pay Means Greater Apparel Production

In my shop, there's a woman who makes about \$1.50 an hour. Ever since she reached this point, she has worked out a dollar-and-fifty-cent philosophy. She talks like this to me:

"What are you bothering me with a petition to my Congressman to raise the minimum wages from 73 cents to \$1.25? I'm the wrong one to talk to. I make at least \$1.50 a week. It's not my business if these other ones make 73 cents or twenty-five cents. I mind my own business—strictly."



The trouble with such a dollar-and-fifty-cent philosophy is that it's very bad business.

In my shop we make cotton dresses. Now who wears those dresses? Mainly housewives and women who work. These women—and their husbands—may be peanut pickers or salmon canners in Texas or Oregon. How much they make is very important to me and it should be to my philosopher friend who likes to mind her own business. How much the peanut pickers or the salmon canners make decides how many cotton dresses they buy.

If people are making only 73 cents an hour—which is \$25 for a 40-hour work week—they can't buy as many dresses as when they make \$1.25 an hour—which is \$30 a week.

These other workers are our customers. They buy what we make. The more they make, the more we make.

Another reason, too, why this minimum wage is our business, there are some houses who are always "moving," or at least they say they're "moving" wherever there is even the smallest threat to the shop.

Where will they move? They're always talking about these places where they pay less where they pay 73 cents an hour. I'm tired of such talk—and a good way to stop it is by voting to let that no matter where the boss goes he will have to pay at least \$1.25 an hour.

In other words, a higher minimum wage is everybody's business. The higher the minimum, the more work, the steadier the work, the higher the maximum, and the higher the in-between.

Also, just in case you may be one of those who has a heart for other people, even if they live a hundred miles away, you might remember that it's pretty hard to raise a family on 30 bucks a week. It's a little easier on 50.

Prelude to a Long Vacation



Easton, Pa. District Manager Grace Sargadine, Bial presents honorary life membership cards to ILGWU to retirees George Amato, Lena Azzalina, and Catherine Check. Bial presented attendance of fourth member of group, Sara Ardizzone.

Business Agent F. Habib Of N. Y. Local 62 Dead

Fred Habib, business agent of Local 62, Undergarment and Needle Workers, died Mar. 30 in New York after a long illness. He was 62 years old. Habib had been associated with the local since 1932, and was widely respected by his colleagues and the workers whom he served.

The deceased leaves a wife and two children. Funeral services were held Apr. 1 at Our Lady of Lebanon home in Brooklyn.

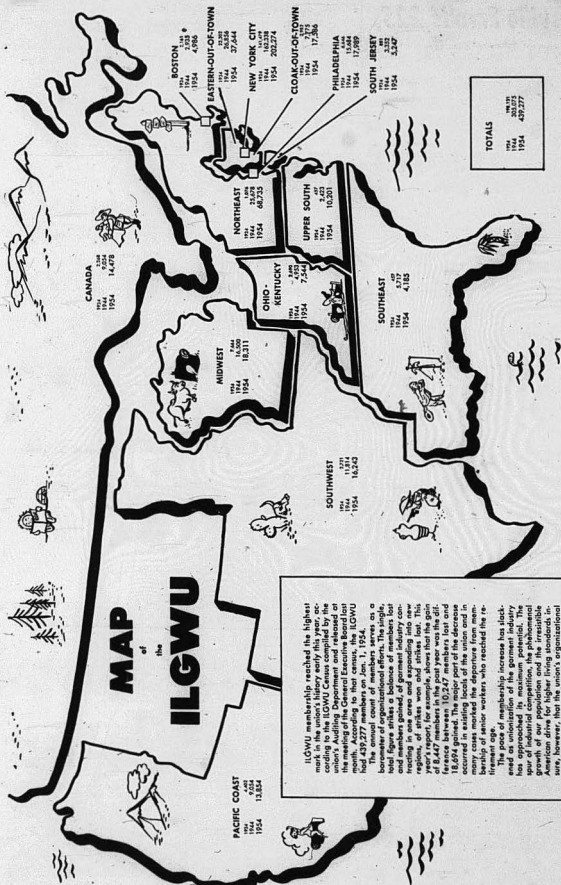
ILG Donates \$10,000 For Truman Library

Acting on a recommendation by its Finance Committee, the ILGWU General Executive Board, meeting in Washington last month, voted to contribute \$10,000 toward building of the Harry S. Truman Library in Independence, Mo. The structure will house important papers and documents bearing on events that occurred during the former President's Administration.

New Trade for New Americans



Utilizing skill of new refugees for work in garment trades is important function of Branson School of Organization for Rehabilitation through Training (ORT) in New York. Above, Jack Liebow (right), member of Needleworkers' Local 142, instructs recent immigrants in cutting techniques. Local 142 Manager Joseph Tuvin, chairman of school, reports 10,000 newcomers in New York have received free garment industry training at Branson.



1934

ILGWU 1954

The ILGWU today is at its greatest organizational strength. Peak membership has been achieved in spite of new challenges and changing attitudes toward the ideals and program of organized labor. But all growth of the union has been attained in the face of obstacles, sometimes more severe and numerous than at other times.

1934 The report of the General Executive Board to the Twenty-Second Convention of the ILGWU in 1934 noted that "We have gained in the past year, nearly 150,000 new members boosting our total in two years from 60,000 to 198,131. From an unenviable position as tail-end in the ranks of American labor, we have emerged as the third largest international union in the American Federation of Labor, with our fighting morale at its highest point and our material resources multiplied many times. But we still have a distance to go."

1944 Ten years later the Twenty-Eighth Convention met in a time of war. A good deal of the distance to which the GEB referred in its report of 1934 already had been covered, with the ILGWU counting a total of 305,075 members. Said the GEB, in its report to the 1944 Convention:

"Out of the gain of 65,000 members in the last four years, no less than 50,000 was scored in the non-war year of 1941 as the result of widespread organizing campaigns throughout the country. In regularity of employment, in dollar volume, in the development of welfare provisions we have made significant progress."

1954 Now, twenty years after its first great spurt in membership and a decade after the end of the war, the ILGWU faces new organizational tasks emerging in an industry in which competitive practices have reasserted themselves, in which new methods and techniques of production are being developed in which the mobility always characteristic of its markets has resulted in the spread of garment making into new centers and regions.

NEW YORK CITY—The major census change for the big city has been the rise in the membership of its miscellaneous locals during the past ten years. These have increased their membership in that period from 66,215 to 98,819 or 49 per cent, while total membership in the city rose 25 per cent.

But of 12,000 retirements from membership under benefit rules, 7,000 have been in cloaks and 3,500 in dress divisions, so that the problem of finding replacements has grown more acute. Over the ten-year span dress membership dropped from 40 to 32 per cent of the city total and cloak membership remained the same proportion of the total in 1954 as in 1944. But in the last three years cloak membership dropped from 44,392 to 38,735; dress from 68,632 to 64,720 while miscellaneous rose from 89,421 to 98,819.

EASTERN OUT-OF-TOWN—Membership in the non-cloak locals in areas immediately around New York City has risen 40 per cent in the last ten years. Production of miscellaneous women's apparel has increased at a rapid rate. In this area dress production was 59 per cent of total garment production ten years ago; today it is 46 per cent.

CLOAK OUT-OF-TOWN—Workers making cloaks in the areas around New York City are governed by Cloak Joint Board contract terms. In the past ten years their numbers have increased more than 125 per cent.

NORTHEAST—The growth of this department's membership, spread through New England, Uptate New York and Pennsylvania, has been phenomenal in the past decade. Its count of 25,678 members in 1944 was considered to be a mark of tremendous organizational progress, in an area of organizational difficulties consisting for the most part of smaller centers and establishments located in rural areas.

Since then many of the establishments that were considered to be merely outposts of the New York market have become permanent features of their respective communities inheriting the traditional problems of the industry. In the past ten years the Northeast membership rose 168 per cent.

SOUTHEAST—The Deep South continues to be the area in which great organizational effort yields only modest results. The area has recently become the center of new interest on the part of employers and drives of new vigor by ILGWU organizers.

PHILADELPHIA—In this Keystone State metropolis the ILGWU touched off its great organizational revival with a major strike in 1933. Membership has been stabilized, going from a total of 15,684 in 1944 to 17,009 this year.

SOUTH JERSEY—Slow but steady organizational work has brought ILGWU membership in this area up from 3,352 ten years ago to a present count of 5,247.

BOSTON—As a center for the manufacture of the well-tailored garment and other specialties Boston has held its own. Joint board membership in the past year has risen 70 per cent.

UPPER SOUTH—Organizational drives directed from headquarters in Baltimore have scored remarkable union growth in a territory in which determined community opposition to unionism matched by strong pro-labor sentiments of the workers is not uncommon. These have made for frequent labor struggles of great intensity. The result in the past decade has been a membership jump from 2,423 to 10,201 or about 320 per cent.

OHIO-KENTUCKY—Membership in this area largely outside of Cleveland has increased more than 50 per cent in the past ten years.

SOUTHWEST—In this vast region bordering covered by the membership is in St. Louis, Midwest—Chicago, in the last decade, has experienced a slight decline. In other sections of the area membership rose by 30 per cent in the same period.

WEST COAST—Membership of West Coast area is up 53 per cent in ten years. Los Angeles raised its membership by 42 per cent for a total of 9,851; San Francisco doubled for a total of 2,882.

CANADA—Canadian membership is now 45 per cent higher than it was ten years ago. More than 60 per cent of membership is in Montreal.

| Percentage of Total ILGWU Membership | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| | 1944 | 1954 |
| | % | % |
| New York City | 33.2 | 48.1 |
| Eastern Out-of-Town | 1.5 | 8.4 |
| Cloak Out-of-Town | 2.5 | 6.9 |
| Northeast | 4.4 | 15.6 |
| Philadelphia | 3.3 | 4.1 |
| South Jersey | 1.1 | 1.2 |
| Boston | 1.0 | 1.1 |
| Upper South | 0.8 | 2.3 |
| Southeast | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Ohio-Kentucky | 1.6 | 1.7 |
| Midwest | 5.4 | 4.2 |
| Southwest | 2.9 | 3.7 |
| West Coast | 3.0 | 2.1 |
| Canada | 2.0 | 2.3 |
| | 100.0 | 100.0 |

1953 Financial Report ILGWU General Office

As has been our practice for many years past, a detailed financial report covering the General Office and the local unions and joint boards will be published sometime in June when the annual audits of our affiliates throughout the country are completed. The report will then be made available to our affiliates and to our members, and full and sufficient notice will be given to them that such a report is available.

This report of the General Office only is printed in its present form in advance of the audits of the local unions in order to comply with NLRB requirements.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES December 31, 1953

ASSETS

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cash | \$ 1,848,050.43 |
| U. S. Government Bonds | 16,603,420.20 |
| Loans Receivable | 5,036,765.26 |
| Investment in Corporate Stock | 116,502.00 |
| Mortgages Receivable | 231,000.00 |
| Deposits | 425.00 |
| Furniture, Fixtures, Automobiles | 24,700.05 |
| Inventory—Supplies, Labels, etc. | 23,000.00 |
| Total Assets | \$24,371,133.94 |

LIABILITIES

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| On Account of Collections | 1,150,820.58 |
| Withholding Tax | 22,849.96 |
| Securities | 2,550.00 |
| Reserve Available for Death Benefit | |
| Payments for Members | 10,060,713.66 |
| Staff Retirement Fund | 15,314.78 |
| Total Liabilities | \$11,261,849.98 |

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

January 1 to December 31, 1953

RECEIPTS

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Dues, Per Capita | \$ 4,147,880.75 |
| Death Benefit Funds | 2,188,191.61 |
| Initiation Tax | 117,552.25 |
| Surplus | 24,700.05 |
| Interest on Investments | 47,027.14 |
| Miscellaneous Receipts | 27,951.80 |
| Total Receipts | \$7,582,293.58 |

DISBURSEMENTS

Administrative Expense

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Publications Cost— | |
| Printing, Mailing, etc. | 302,851.70 |
| Salaries—Bookkeepers, Stenographers, Clerks, etc. | 407,448.15 |
| Rent—Office | 37,000.00 |
| Printing, Stationery and Postage | 60,029.86 |
| Telephone and Telegraph | 34,200.01 |
| Dues to Other Organizations | 215,495.22 |
| PFCA, Federal State Unemployment Insurance and Annuities | 61,481.71 |
| ILGWU Staff Retirement Fund | 164,220.18 |
| Departmental Expense | 40,523.27 |
| Miscellaneous Expense | 30,709.30 |
| Total Administrative Expenses | 1,532,627.12 |

Organization Expense

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries—Organizers | 943,211.68 |
| Organizing Expense | 473,132.80 |
| Legal Fees and Expenses | 85,500.40 |
| Committee Expense | 18,642.80 |
| Educational and Recreational Expenses | 16,123.96 |
| ILGWU Training Institute | 73,457.68 |
| Publicity, Advertising—Radio | 12,096.80 |
| Strike Benefit and Expense | 166,138.00 |
| ILGWU Convention Expense | 110,801.50 |
| Total Organization Expense | 1,938,797.74 |

Donations and Relief

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Relief to Members | 2,813.00 |
| Charitable and Labor Organizations | 441,140.67 |
| Total Donations and Relief | 443,953.67 |
| Death Benefit Payments to Members | 1,557,474.27 |
| Total Disbursements | \$5,618,296.20 |

Switch to Piece Work Sought To Boost Pay at Annshire Co.

A change in production from time to piece work topped the list of demands put forth by the Southwest Regional Office in talks with the Annshire Garment Co. of Pittsburgh, Kan., on Mar. 19. According to union spokesmen, the time work system now in effect at Annshire has resulted in a wage level substantially below that prevailing in other cloak shops in the region.

In requesting the production changeover, Vice Pres. Meyer Testin emphasized that the new system must provide for wage parity to keep earnings from falling below minimum standards. At the same time, there should be no restrictions on the workers' ability to add to their income by attaining skill and experience.

Assisting Regional Office representatives were officers of Local 518 Joseph Korachuk, legal adviser to the Kansas City Garment Manufacturers Assn. and counsel for Annshire, was present for management. Still pending in a federal court is a suit by the union against Annshire asking back pay owed several of the company's employees.

Well-Kalter Arbitration

Three instances in which the Well-Kalter Manufacturing Co. violated contract provisions were ruled out at arbitration proceedings against the firm on Mar. 17.

In the first case, union spokesmen said, that the company had reduced the number of paid holidays because the workers received a 10 per cent wage increase when they joined the union. It was also charged that the firm refused to provide the union with statements of average hourly earnings of piece workers and that it had locked out piece workers in its Milbush, Ill., and Louisiana, Mo., shops.

Other Well-Kalter shops represented by workers' committees, who testified to the correctness of the union charges, were those in Bristol, Okla., and Poplar Bluff and Malden, Mo. Additional hearings were set for Mar. 24.

Signing Up for Freedom



Crusade for Freedom and Radio Free Europe received 100 per cent support of workers in Robert Bruce Knitwear Co. in Philadelphia last month. Frances Daly and Jane Ruhl, members of Local 110, sign petition backing up Crusade's fight against Soviet tyranny in Eastern Europe. This shop was first in city to deliver unanimous endorsement of organization's work.

LOS ANGELES CLOAK RAISES CONVERTED INTO PERCENTAGES

Piece workers in Los Angeles coat and suit factories, under contract with the ILGWU will have their last two wage increases converted into percentages. It was announced by Lester Stinner, manager of the Los Angeles Cloak Joint Board. Work workers will continue to receive their increases on the same hourly basis as in the past.

The conversion to take effect Apr. 5, includes total increases of \$2.25—\$2.25 gained originally in the agreement of January, 1951, and \$2 negotiated last autumn and made effective Nov. 2, 1953 by the industry impartial chairman.

Percentage rates, based on average earnings, will be 1 per cent for operators, 10, 1 per cent for finishers, 5 per cent for pressers, 5 per cent for lining makers, and 9 per cent for skirt makers. There will be added to existing percentage bonuses which range from 18 per cent for pressers to 27 per cent for finishers. The increases are added to the paycheck after all piece rate work, including overtime, has been computed, Stinner said.

A joint meeting of executive board members of Operators' Local 53, Finishers' Local 54, and the Cloak Division of Pressers' Local 97 gathered at Cloak Joint Board headquarters on Mar. 22 and unanimously approved the recommendations of the union's administration on the increases. Local membership meetings during the two days will receive the recommendations.

From the Army of Labor to the Army of Salvation



Local 373, Bristol, Okla., reaffirmed its importance in community life last month with contribution to Salvation Army. Local members are employed by Well-Kalter Manufacturing Co.

Upstate N.Y., Vt. Renewals Win Major Gains for 1,500

Agreements recently renewed by the Northeast Department's Upstate New York and Vermont District with six area garment manufacturers grant the 1,500 members employed by these firms wage increases or a shorter work week and other union benefits, according to District Supervisor Max Weiler. Where hours were paid previously received for 40 cut, workers were assured the same hours.

The renewal with Dick's Dress Co. of Rutland, Vt., which employs 90 workers in the manufacture of women's dresses, provided for a 6 per cent wage adjustment and reduced hours effective as of Jan. 11, 1954.

In Manassas, N. Y., the contract covering 310 employees of the Warner Brothers Co., which manufactures corsets and brassieres, became effective Jan. 12, 1954, for a shorter work week with a compensating pay boost of 6 1/2 per cent.

Colgate Knitting Mills of Buffalo, N. Y., agreed to pay a 6 per cent general wage increase to their 50 workers effective Apr. 1. The company manufactures knitwear.

On Mar. 1, the Kordon Manufacturing Co. with plants in Haverhill and Upton, N. Y., workers terms of its new union agreement, increased wages by 6 per cent and reduced the work week. The firm employs 500 and manufactures sportswear for women.

The Elmira Knitting Mills of Elmira, N. Y., employing 200 workers in the manufacture of knitted products, agreed to contribute 3 per cent of payroll to the union's retirement fund effective as of Jan. 1, 1954.

Terms of the renewed agreement with the Ford Manufacturing Co. of Watford, N. Y., are retroactive to Nov. 25, 1953 and specify a 6 per cent general wage increase. More than 225 workers are employed by the company.

Shop committees of workers from the various mills were involved in the negotiating conferences. Heading the negotiating teams was District Supervisor Max Weiler, who was assisted, in Rutland and Watford, by Business Agent Alex Karney, and in Buffalo by Business Agent Elmhurst by Business Agent James Bellows. Vice Pres. David Ginzburg, director of the Northeast Department, served as advisor to the negotiators during talks with Kordon.

NAACP Legal Unit Elects Zimmerman

Vice Pres. Charles R. Zimmerman, manager of New York Drummakers' Local 22 has been elected to the board of directors of the Legal Defense and Educational Fund of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People.

The fund is the legal arm of the NAACP and in the past 15 years has been actively involved in hundreds of cases affecting the rights of Negro Americans, including representation of the case before the Supreme Court aimed at ending segregation in public and elementary schools.

Junior Trend Co. in Montreal Signs Pact After Short Halt

The employer of Junior Trend in Montreal just couldn't take a hint. First he tried to scare his employees away from the ILGWU by making veiled references to the fact that most of them are recent displaced persons. Then he twice tried to bring

them to be active in the union. The employees promptly accepted the challenge and walked out.

SERVICES EXPANDED FOR HOSPITALIZED ST. LOUIS MEMBERS

ILGWU members in St. Louis, Mo., now will receive, free care during and after hospitalization, according to an agreement reached last month. The treatment is provided through the St. Louis Health Center. Prior to the agreement, all health services had to be given on the employer's premises.

Vice Pres. Meyer Perlestein, Southwest regional director, announced the new policy following a conference with the Associated Garment Industries of St. Louis on Mar. 18. The medical requirements underlying the extension of services were explained by Dr. Martin B. Kirshstein, the center's medical director.

Under the new plan, ILGWUers required to be hospitalized will receive medical treatment including surgery, X-rays, anesthesia, etc. After recovery home, the members will continue receiving doctor's care for a limited period.

Council 1 Feted

District Council 1, comprised of ILGWU locals with members employed in shops of Pureit City Manufacturing Co., celebrated its seventh anniversary at a luncheon in St. Louis on Mar. 13. Eula Carson, president of the council, and Russell Thompson, manager, came in for high praise from Vice Pres. Perlestein and other speakers for the excellent manner in which they have guided the unit since 1946.

Miller Striking

Thirty-five employees of A. I. Miller are in the sixth week of their strike designed to force the firm to reduce workers discharged for union activity and to sign an ILGWU contract.

When the majority of employees signed their desire to join the ILGWU asked for a certifying election from the Quebec Labor Relations Board. The employer thereupon discharged several work-

Mayor Calls for Section Work in Cheaper Lines To Boost Employment in New York Cloak Trade

A positive policy of encouraging the introduction of section work in order to save the tailor shops that remain in the cheaper lines of New York's cloak industry has been recommended by Vice Pres. Isidore Nagler, general manager of the Cloak Joint Board of that city. It was made in a special report presented by Nagler last month to the officers of the board and was based on many months of intensive study of the problems confronting the cloak industry in New York.

Nagler's analysis of the industry included a summary examination of recent changes in the industry economy. During World War II, the American consumer, because of war production, was unable to buy hard goods. As a result, there developed a great increase in demand for women's coats and suits. Since 1946, the industry has suffered a recession, because the consumer concentrated his buying on the durable goods that had become available in sufficient supply.

The new habits of American home life as well as the growth of suburbs, the development of new fashions and the growing informality of American life have all led to a more informal way of dress, with stress on separates rather than the usual coats and suits. He also examined the effect of the present recession on the coat and suit industry.

Nagler dealt in detail with these three major changes:

1. The cloak industry's labor force.
2. Section work.
3. Cloak Joint Board membership.

Following are highlights from General Manager Nagler's report:

Labor Force

Important changes have taken place in the composition of the coat and suit industry's labor force since the beginning of World War II. Historically the industry was one in which male workers, skilled mechanics producing the entire garment on the tailor system, were predominant. The major source of the industry's labor supply had been immigration—prior to the Eighties, of German-Americans; then of Jews, and later of Italians—who continued until restrictive legislation was enacted in the early Nineteen Twenties. Many immigrants came to these shores as skilled tailors and went, naturally, into the needle trades. Others, because of language barriers, found that the easiest way to start life in the new country was to go into the trades where their fellow countrymen already were. It was quite common, and was considered a moral obligation, for a skilled worker to take his "handson" or "patsan" from the old country into his shop and teach him the trade.

This immigration was the reservoir from which the skilled cloakmakers came. Through the toil and idealism that animated these people, the great Cloakmakers' Union was built.

With the restriction of immigration in the Nineteen Twenties, particularly from these countries from which most of our men came, the source of cloak mechanics was seriously cut off. But unlike other industries, into which a substantial number of children of immigrant workers followed their parents, an entirely different picture emerges in the case of the cloak industry.

The immigrants were quickly Americanized and caught hold of the American dream of rising from a social ladder, if not by them, then at least by their children.

Among Jewish workers, the stress on the importance of education, and the abundant opportunities which were opening up with the great expansion of the white collar field, led them to make great sacrifices in order to provide their American-born children with higher education.

Moreover, the nature and character of the cloak industry, with its intense seasonality and attendant insecurity of seasonal employment, made the type of working conditions conducive to attracting young Americans. Even after conditions had improved very much, as a result of the war, the industry was a revealed trade persisted.

The Italian community is following the

same pattern, being only a decade or so behind, simply because its mass immigration had started later. Young Italian men have not been entering the cloak shop recently either. Italian girls, who up to now were entering the industry, came only to spend a few years in it, and even their numbers are beginning to decline.

The drying up of the reservoir of the industry's labor force has ramifications that are most important for the industry and the Union.

Section Work

The development of section work on a large scale is of fairly recent origin, dating back to the war years, when the industry expanded in all lines—better, medium and cheaper—in response to an exceptional increase in demand for its products. The New

York cloak contractors, as well as the workers, were so fully absorbed on the medium and better lines, where more money could be produced, they therefore were indifferent to the lower price range.

Not being able to find sufficient manpower and productive facilities within New York City, the cheaper end of the industry spread into outlying areas. In the small towns of New Jersey or upstate New York labor was available, because the wages of cloaker women in the cloak shops generally were higher than what they could earn elsewhere.

Large plants were built in these small communities, which were happy to have them. The growth of this new labor force is reflected in the fact that the out-of-town proportion of the total Cloak Joint Board membership has risen steadily from 12.5 per cent in 1940 to 28.3 per cent as of July 1, 1953.

The general trend toward skimpier styles, which led out a great deal of skilled hand work, helped pave the way for section work, and was accelerated by government wartime production regulations, such as restriction on the use of trimmings, etc., which forced a simplification of garments.

Since skilled mechanics were not available in the outlying areas, the shops manufactured the garment on a division of labor basis, whereby all that was needed was a core of well-paid skilled workers for the more intricate operations, while the bulk of the complement of workers was easily trained (most women have some familiarity with sewing machines) to perform the more routine and simple operations. In time, the division of labor became more and more uniform in quality. Naturally, the joint board took immediate steps to underline the workers in the sectionalized cloak shop and to open the door to them.

Had we not done so, they would have become a real danger to our existence.

For understandable reasons, the union, in the past, took a positive attitude toward section work, even refusing officially to recognize it, though it existed right across the bridges over the East and Hudson

Rivers. This system of production has grown to today mean that half our members are employed in the section shops. We must recognize the significance of this fact.

Membership

The industry, not being able to find sufficient manpower in New York City during the war years, expanded in the outlying areas. The great expansion in the industry's production occurred during the decades of the Nineteen Forties and the total Cloak Joint Board membership rose by 20,504 in that 11-year span (1940-1951), growing from 32,322 in 1940 to 52,826 in 1951.

Three joint board affiliates: Local 22, Skirt and Sportswear workers; Local 48, Italian Cloakmakers, (whose great expansion in membership resulted from the growth of section shops in the Brooklyn territory); and the Out-of-Town Department, together, accounted for 77,324 of the 30,000-member expansion. While it is true that our other cloak locals did grow somewhat during, and immediately after, the war, that increase was never enough to handle the tremendous growth in the industry's production. Thus Cloak Operators' Local 31, at its peak of 8,750 members in 1944, had only 623 members more than in 1940. Presers' Local 35 membership also reached its height in 1944—1,408, but this was only 138 more than in 1940.

Since the industry's 1946 production peak, Local 117 has lost 18.5 per cent of its membership, Local 8 14.7 per cent and Local 23, 25.6 per cent. These losses in membership have occurred despite the taking in of new members, for the simple reason that retirements and deaths are greater than recruitment.

The Coat and Suit Industry Retirement Fund finds that, at the present, 64.2 per cent of the Local 117 membership is 54 years of age or older; in Local 23, 62.4 per cent is 54 years and over; and in Local 25 (sportswear

workers included), 49.3 per cent are in this upper age bracket.

In this respect, the coat and suit industry differs from the section end of the garment industry. In the dress, skirt and miscellaneous trades, as the Jewish and Italian proportions of the labor force have declined, their ranks have been filled by younger people of other national origins.

In the cloak locals, the Jewish membership has been falling steadily, and the membership of the Italian Cloakmakers' Union, Local 48, after a remarkable rise during the decades of the Forties, has declined 37.6 per cent in the past two and one-half years.

Our locals, experiencing a decline in membership at a time when their expenses have been rising, face financial problems. Realizing that such matters, under our local statutes, are not belonging to the locals for their consideration, I nevertheless feel it my duty to express my sincere belief that they should give serious thought to the possibility of solving these problems, either by consolidation of their administrative affairs or by merger.

In these cases in which it is practical.

Naturally, I do not underestimate the complex nature and difficulty of the task, but I am convinced that the industry and the union eventually may compel us to take these steps. However, in any measure, we shall find that it may be a bit too late for corrective action. I am, therefore, making the leadership of the locals in question to give this matter their earnest attention.

The pertinent question to be asked at this

point is, "Why haven't other groups entered the New York cloak industry so far?" There are two reasons. For one thing, it is easier to work on the lighter materials—silk, rayon, etc.—which the carmenas of other unions appear to have made, successfully, since New York cloak shops use the tailor system of production almost exclusively, the potential work force cannot enter the trade, for it doesn't have the skill of our old mechanics.

For these reasons, the average laborer in New York City is declining, thus confronting our industry and our union with serious problems that demand solution.

Conclusion

This necessity for increasing employment opportunities in New York is clear to everyone. The prime obligation of our union is to do all in its power to protect its members who will continue to work in the industry for a concentrated and substantial labor force.

The importance of maintaining the union as a powerful force in New York is also obvious. Everyone will agree that a union with a concentrated membership in the labor force is in a much better position to protect and raise the standards of its members, both in the shop and in the smaller dispersing surrounding communities.

There is another reason why we should feel strongly on this point. After all, our union has never been a pure and simple economic organization. It has a distinctive spirit and outlook on political and social affairs. All of us have contributed to this, and in turn we have, to the benefit of the entire American labor movement with it. Shouldn't we feel a desire to pass this heritage of progressive trade unionism on to those who follow us?

To accomplish this, it is imperative to maintain a strong union here in the city, where we can use our full influence in this direction. Indeed, if newcomers enter the ranks while the old-timers are still here to guide them, they can be quickly integrated, and a large measure of our outlook can be transmitted to them.

Of course, my problem is not the better life of work. I want to stress this as strongly as possible. This does have remained, and for obvious reasons will continue to remain, in New York City. In this line, the tailoring system of production will prevail, because of the hand work involved, the small business of more styles and the required care in the handling of the individual garment.



ment. As a matter of fact, in the better line, there is a growing concern about the lack of a sufficient number of good mechanics.

We are primarily concerned with the lower priced garment production, which has been consistently drifting away from New York. This, of course, again leads us to a discussion of section work.

The main reasons for the section system having gained ground over the tailor system in the lower price field are that, in section shops, with a large volume of production, there is a fuller usage of machinery, much less modern machinery, eliminating much handwork. A division of labor on simpler operations, and a greater use of

(Continued on Page 16)

"We'll Show 'Em, Kid!"



RENEWAL TALKS ON PANEL DISCUSSION WITH THREE FIRMS WILL EXAMINE ARTS IN SCRANTON AREA IN CHANGING WORLD

Contract renewal negotiations affecting more than 170 members of the Northeast Department's Scranton, Pa., District are in progress, reports Manager Harry Schindler.

Three shops involved in negotiations are the M-K Co. of Dunmore, which makes children's dresses, the Carroll Ann Blouse Co. of Scranton and the Better Maid Dress Co. of Pottsville. Assisting Manager Schindler in these conferences are Business Agents Amelia Merva, who services the Better Maid shop, and Jack Nobel, who services the M-K and Carroll Ann mills, plus the various shop committees.

According to Schindler, negotiations are proceeding as anticipated and the union looks forward to a satisfactory conclusion of the agreements in the near future.

The annual Panel Discussion sponsored by the Educational Department took an added interest last week when it was announced by Secretary Fannie M. Cohn that at least six outstanding personalities will attend as guest speakers.

The topic under discussion is "How Is Our Troubled Country World Reflected in the Arts—the Novel, Poetry, Theatre, Movies, Television, Paintings?"

These are the authorities who will participate in the discussion: Irwin Edman, professor of philosophy at Columbia University; Prof. Howard Mumford Jones of Harvard University; Henry David, professor of history at Columbia; Robert Goldwater, professor of art at Queens College; Maxwell Grimsar, critic and novelist; and Budd Schulberg.

FREE LEGAL SERVICE ESTABLISHED IN N.J. OUT-OF-TOWN UNITS

A Legal Department has been established to meet the needs of New Jersey members of the Eastern Out-of-Town and CIO Out-of-Town Departments. It was announced jointly by Vice Presidents Israel Horowitz and George Rubin, heads of the EOT and COT Departments, respectively.

Representatives from the law firm of Kapelblin, Lerner, Leichter and Reisman will establish the legal bureau at the ILOWU building, 3 William St., Newark. Their services will be available from 4 to 7 P.M. every Thursday in the Council Room on the third floor.

Horowitz and Rubin emphasized that many phases of social life and activity today are affected by federal and state legislation. Members frequently are required to appear before governmental agencies regarding proceedings concerning unemployment compensation, disability insurance, refunds of social insurance overpayments, and similar matters, they pointed out.

Sol Kapelblin, Jersey ILOWU Councilman, states that members who wish to avail themselves of the union's Legal Department should always bring their booklets and official notices with them when they come in for assistance in matters pertaining to unemployment compensation and temporary disability.

The free service will be available to members of EOT Locals 144, 145, 146, 150, 151, 160, 166, 170, 222, and 251, and COT Locals 21, 130, 132, 134, 135 and 158.

author and former motion picture producer.

The panel will get underway at 12:30 P.M. on May 8, in the auditorium of Hunter High School, 8th St. and Park Ave., Manhattan. Admission is free but by ticket only. Write to Fannie Cohn, Educational Department, 110 Broadway, New York 38, or call Columbus 5-7000. A student fellowship reunion will follow the discussion. Reservations for the luncheon must also be made in advance.

KNOW YOUR CITY

APRIL 24, 12:30 P.M. Metropolitan Museum of Art, 5th Ave. and 42nd St., Guided Tour. May 1, 1:30 P.M. Labor Temple, 42nd St. 14th St. (near 2nd Ave.), Special Exhibit, "Labor Unions in Art and Crafts."

HOW TO BUY

by Sidney Margolis

Don't Fall for Brand Names In Buying Garden Fertilizer

Now that over half the families in the country own their own homes, we're all learning how surprisingly costly it is to maintain a lawn and some shrubbery. Good lawn care is expensive, especially this year when it often costs \$2.50 to \$5 a pound. Fertilizer, insecticides, crab-grass killer, garden tools and mowers are other expenses with which the homeowner has to contend.

You have much more of the cost if you know how and what to buy. You may pay as much as 20 to 40 per cent more for various fertilizers and other products under certain trade names than you could buy them under their ordinary chemical names at reasonable prices. The main point in buying these products is to read the labels carefully to see the actual chemical or other ingredients, and their strength.



Don't be fooled by larger-size packages either. For example, potassium cyanate is widely used as a crab-grass killer. One widely-sold brand of this material is sold in a larger can than several of the lesser-known brands of potassium cyanate. But if you read the labels, you observe that the solution in the apparently bigger package is weaker, and that you to use more of it for the same area. Thus it turns out to be the most expensive brand. The more concentrated solutions go further.

But you save most by buying potassium cyanate as such and not under brand names. The best place to buy this and other lawn needs is in the farm-supply co-ops which can often be found in the rural areas bordering many towns and suburbs. Like the O.L.P., cooperative stores in the Northeast, the Farmers Union-sponsored co-op stores, and many others maintained by other suburban and rural cooperatives throughout the country.

The same situation occurs in fertilizers. Many small homeownery buy several well-advertised brands in small packages at large prices. Retail prices of the same grade of fertilizer vary noticeably, but for home-lawns needs, one fertilizer is usually as good as any other. Of the same grade, the N. Y. State College of Agriculture points out, the lawns expert notes that every package of fertilizer must be labeled to show the minimum analysis or grade of the three important fertilizer materials. The widely-used "5-10-10" fertilizer contains 5 per cent nitrogen, 10 per cent phosphoric acid and 5 per cent potash.

Similarly with lawn seeds. It's very expensive this year because of last year's drought, so use it carefully, and read the label on the package to see actually what you are buying. Particularly compare the percentage of permanent grasses in each mixture as against the percentage of temporary grasses like the rye. The mixtures containing higher percentage of permanent grasses are more desirable. In fact, the experts recommend never buying a mixture that contains less than 50 per cent of permanent grasses. The widely-used "5-10-10" fertilizer contains 5 per cent nitrogen, 10 per cent phosphoric acid and 5 per cent potash.

It's also important to select a mixture which contains a higher proportion of the particular permanent grasses which have been found best adapted to the soil and growing conditions in your region, so buy those particular seeds to make your own mixture. You can find out what is the best grass for your area by writing your state college of agriculture.

Now that power mowers have come down to more reasonable levels, an increasing number of small homeownery are showing interest in their possibilities for relieving the mowing chore. Power mowers are most desirable for large lawn areas. For the average small lot, one heavily planted with shrubs and trees, a hand mower may still be more convenient.

Section Work Urged to Bosses... Cloak Jobs

(Continued from Page 9)

door help, frees the operators of unnecessary handling of the garment. All these factors combine to increase the output per man hour and reduce the cost per garment.

After wrestling with this matter for a long period of time, we recognized these facts of life and accepted the principle of section work in our 1951 agreement, thus providing the basis for organizing the cheaper end of production. But to be quite frank about it, while we reasoned this thing out, our hearts weren't really in it. Our attitude has remained that, although you cannot prevent the flourishing of section work out of town, and even in Brooklyn, New York is a different story. This appears to me to be an unsound attitude, particularly since practice has shown that our New York cloakmakers can receive good earnings as mechanics on the more skilled operations in section shops.

Unless we now firmly adopt a positive policy to do all in our power to encourage the introduction of section shops in New York, the remaining tailer shops in the cheaper line will surely disappear, and their workers left high and dry. Foresight and wisdom require us to act now and take measures that will not be too little or too late.

I therefore propose the adoption of a positive policy, in substance as now in effect, of encouragement to employers to open section shops, in the cheaper end of production, in New York. Of course, I realize that this is no easy task and poses many problems, such as drawing in new manpower for the less skilled operations, the securing of proper lost space, and the need for centralized union control. I am confident, however, that once the union adopts the policy I have recommended, we shall be able to overcome these difficulties.

There is reasonable ground for believing that employers will become interested, because there are many advantages to having a shop located in the city. The city is the style center of the nation, and it is highly beneficial for a firm to be as close to it as possible. The buying offices are concentrated in the garment center, and it is preferable for a cloak house to be near them. A firm in New York has lower transportation costs. Last, but not least, section work in the city gives a firm a more direct control over the quality of production.

I have no doubt that we could approach public authorities in the city for help in retaining our trade here. After all, the apparel industry is a tremendously important segment of the city's industrial life. It is clear that, as new section shops would

be encouraged to grow in New York, they would attract as new jobs as they would force for the more routine operations, and many of our mechanics in the cheaper line of production, who now have difficulty finding work, would be able to obtain work in these shops as the more skilled all-around workers and earn good wages. Furthermore, as the supply of workers in the better line declines, due to retirement and death, and many mechanics will shift from the cheaper end to the medium line, and those in the medium line to the better line.

The solution to this problem can only come about gradually, over a period of time. In implementing this policy, we must exercise patience and flexibility. It is not an overnight proposition.

Our union must plan its program to meet these problems with utmost care, and at the same time, we must encourage the entire history of the Cloakmakers' Union has been one of pioneering new innovations as it has adjusted to changing conditions and free change. We returned, in 1932, to con-

trolled piece work, but with designation of contractors and jobbers' responsibility. Today we must take the initiative and encourage the spread of the cheaper line of production in the city.

It is my sincere conviction that if we act vigorously, we shall successfully place players in the cheaper line of production to stay in New York and not to run away. Thus, we shall be able to have the jobs of our people. In this way, we shall be able to maintain the strength of the union in New York and infuse some of the progressive traditions and idealistic attitude of the newcomers who will enter our ranks.

The Cloakmakers' Union, which blazed the trail pioneering many reforms in the garment industry, may be old in years, but it is still capable of assessing the present situation and taking the necessary measures. A union, which only a decade ago established the first industry retirement fund in the country, has sufficient vitality and flexibility to adjust to changing conditions.

I am confident that our union will not fail to respond with energy and enthusiasm to leadership which holds the way toward renewed strength of the New York Cloakmakers' Union and its continued progress in the years that lie ahead.

CUTTERS COLUMN

\$598,000 Health, Welfare Benefits Paid Cutters in '53

Health and welfare services furnished to members of Local 10 was the subject of recent comment by Moe Falkman, manager of the cutters' organization. He stated that a report submitted by Sam Winick, who is in charge of the local's Health and Vacation Department, reflected not merely the very substantial benefits being paid by the cutters but also the efficient conduct of this phase of the local's activities.

According to the report, which covered the calendar year 1953, benefits furnished to members in all branches totaled \$598,000. Included in this amount were \$419,900 in vacation payments and \$178,900 in health benefits.

These benefits are financed through percentage-of-payroll contributions made by employers under the collective agreements in the various branches of industry in which members of Local 10 are employed. The largest item of disbursement among the various health services was sick benefit, of which over \$260,000 was paid to cutters during 1953. Members of Local 10 also received \$100,000 for hospitalization, \$100,000 for surgical expenses and \$80,000 for eye glasses.

Cutters have made liberal use of the comprehensive facilities of the Union Health Center. An average of about 3,000 members (close to one-third the total membership of the local) have availed themselves of these facilities annually in recent years. Services to members such as medical examinations, X-rays, treatments, etc., exceed 20,000 a year. During 1953 such services involved an expenditure of \$25,000. Emphasizing the value of the UHC for prevention as well as cure of illness or disease was a recent case involving a cutter of a large

Regular Meeting

Monday, April 26

Annual financial report and other matters.

draw firm. He contracted tuberculosis and is now receiving the best available treatment in a sanatorium in which the union makes regular contributions. However, the other 10 cutters with whom he worked became alarmed, fearing they might have caught this highly contagious disease. Arrangements were speedily made, through the Health and Vacation Department of Local 10, for examinations including X-rays for them at the Steinhilber Center. The test showed a negative result in all cases.

Manager Falkman pointed out that the close to \$600,000 disbursed by Local 10 for health and vacation benefits did not include the \$7 per capita payments made to the health fund to the ILGWU to cover the cost of the \$1,000 death benefit, for which each member contributes only \$1 a year. The annual cost of this benefit is about \$60,000.

Nagler's Report

At the last meeting of the executive board of Local 10, Manager Falkman discussed the annual report presented recently by General Manager Isidore Nagler to the Cloak Joint Board. Praising the report as an able and comprehensive analysis

of the present state of the cloak industry, Falkman said it merited close study, especially the portion which dealt with the need for preserving employment opportunities for cloak workers in New York.

The recommendation in the report that large section work shops be encouraged in the cheaper and medium line of work to keep this type of production in the city was considered highly significant. While the cutter is not directly affected by section work as such, he has a vital interest in efforts directed toward keeping low-end production in New York, Falkman maintained. Strengthening the fact that the welfare of the cutter was being brought up with that of the other crafts,

Falkman declared that cutters cannot consider this problem in "splendid isolation" but rather as one in which they too were seriously concerned. Even the cutters in trades other than cloaks should interest themselves in recent trends in that branch, he contended, in order to learn certain lessons which may be valuable in meeting the problems that develop in their respective trades.

A very lively discussion took place on this matter, in which many members of the executive committee participated. There was such interest in the subject that it was decided to continue the discussion at the next executive board meeting.

HEALTH MATTER
by Pauline Newman

High Costs of Medical Care Prove Need for Health Plan

While findings of the University of Chicago's recent survey of medical costs revealed nothing new, it must have shocked a good many people to learn that \$3,000,000 families are obliged to go into debt for medical needs, that a half-million families have bills larger than their total income. The survey also disclosed that Americans spend more than \$100,000,000 a year on illness.

Some legislators of the Republican Administration have had the courage to criticize the American Medical Association for its branding any health plan it does not like as "socialized." Representative Wolverton of New Jersey had no hesitation in stating that, "Wherever legislation is proposed which would prove helpful to the average citizen, too frequently the charge is made that it is 'socialized medicine.'"

An eminent physician, too, has had the courage to attack the position of the AMA in a book entitled "Doctors, People and Government." The author is Dr. James Edward Meade, who until his retirement had been professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and chief of medical service at the Massachusetts General Hospital. His long experience in the field of medicine should qualify him to take issue with the AMA's on its policy of obstruction and reaction.

"What the traffic will bear without of charging for medical service," Dr. Meade states, "is not in the interests of either the patient or the doctor. Organized medicine (headed by the AMA) is making a desperate effort to preserve for itself

service payment and to prevent health insurance from becoming comprehensive." Meade calls on Dr. Meade for his courage to speak out.

DRESS JOINT BOARD
GIVES BIG WELCOME
TO SHIPPING CLERKS

Officers and members of the New York Dress Joint Board, headed by General Manager Julius Hochman, recently welcomed to the dress industry shipping clerks into the ranks of the ILGWU at a board meeting on Mar. 25.

Commenting that the achievement of the Dress Shipping Clerks' Union in winning union recognition and a favorable, industry-wide agreement was "most impressive, Vice Pres. Hochman led the veteran dress unionists in applauding the remarks of Don Steibel, executive board chairman of the newly-organized 60-A.

An spokesman for a group composed of workers who had been active in forming the union, Steibel expressed the appreciation of the shipping clerks to the joint board for "all-out support of our effort to build a union," and vowed adherence to the ILGWU.

Steibel's remarks followed a report by Manager Jack Spitzer, who expressed the gladness that the dress industry had realized unanimously the terms of their first union contract.

Hochman said it was a "thrilling experience for the old guard" to observe the split and vigor with which the shipping clerks, headed by Spitzer, had organized a union and obtained a very favorable collective agreement.

Included in the shipping clerks' delegation were Alex Clark, Henry Nanton, Charles Prince and George Smith. All are executive board members of Local 60-A.

Fete M. Goldofsky,
Retiring '35' Leader

Morris Goldofsky, assistant manager of Local 35, Cloak Pressers, will be feted with a "testimonial banquet" May 12 at Hotel New Yorker, on the occasion of the pioneer unionist's retirement from active service.

Goldofsky has been a leader in Local 35 and in the New York Cloak Joint Board for more than four decades. He was one of the original builders of the union, having served on the General Strike Committee in 1935, when the Cloakmakers' Union became firmly established. In addition to his duties as president of the United Hebrew Trades, Goldofsky currently is president of the United Hebrew Trades.

BOOK FRONT

by Milton Spieckhauser

Total Destruction
And Total Survival
Are Dual Problems

THE CHALLENGE OF MAN'S FUTURE. By Harrison Brown. The Viking Press, \$7.75.

If there is any threat more depressing than the possibility of the total destruction of the world's population by some devilish bomb, it is the possibility of the total survival, at its present rate of increase, of this same world population.



tion, thanks again to advances made in medicine and health care. Dr. Brown contends that, even in the face of the earth-destruction by bomb or biology—and presents well-weighed arguments why the latter will be done to prevent their eventual.

This book deals with the age-old race between population and food supply. In our own time progress in medicine, in mass health care in biology and disease prevention has served to increase the number of mouths that must be fed. Food and other natural resources of limited value continue to be consumed without any serious regard to the need for increasing their supply.

There is no frightening in the historical record which shows that in the race it is always population that "catches up" with supply, that supply only rarely outstrips demand. New, says Brown, more industrialized nations are offering backward countries the scientific knowledge that makes certain very rapid increases in population. There is no control of that growth. Nor is there always the offer of means to increase industrial production and food supply. The inevitable result is an increase in mass health and in many poverty.

This is a hard-headed book on a most urgent problem for which there is no easy solution. Control of the birth rate involves tremendous problems not the least of which are religious and emotional in nature. If established on a worldwide scale it would also imply an authority which exercises the control in a most dignified manner.

Brown, one of this nation's outstanding geochemists, adds up the possibilities for the thoughtful reader. The price of survival in a world-wide scale it would also imply an authority which exercises the control in a most dignified manner. Brown, one of this nation's outstanding geochemists, adds up the possibilities for the thoughtful reader. The price of survival in a world-wide scale it would also imply an authority which exercises the control in a most dignified manner.

1953: "This is a puzzle."

Testament

By MAX PRESS

To live with dignity, to meet your fate:
With the wry, the wan, the leucis smile;

Enduring bravely what you cannot help.
Fighting, brave till the end for what you can!

Does not this give a meaning to your life,
Is not this the sure road by which you can?

To stand with Wisdom on the clear, clear heights
And face the wind, the lightning and the rain!

ANSWER
THE
CALL

TODAY AND TOMORROW

by Luigi Antonini FREE PRESS - ROMO

Mazzini's One-World Dream
Reflected in the United Nations

A monument to Giuseppe Mazzini, Italy's greatest political thinker, stands today in New York's Central Park in the obscurity that somehow seems to befall all park monuments.

It is a monument mislocated two miles from the square in front of the United Nations, where it is deservedly belongs.

For where is there a place more suitable to put the statue of a political architect whose blueprint for the unification of Italy telegraphed a United States of Europe? The maturation of Mazzini's greatest objective for a fraternity of nations a century ago is mirrored today in the house of glass that is the world's window.

Mazzini was not a nationalist in the narrow and fascistic sense that is descriptive of our present-day chauvinisms. Neither a racist nor an ethnocentric, he clung to the ideal that the greatest security for the Italian nation lay in respect for other nations, peoples and races—in short, mankind.

To him the word "nation" meant fortress of freedom. He rejected the rigid materialism spawned by Marx and prophesied a coming era of democratic democracy. The free world became the proving ground for that force to measure social, political and technological progress in the twentieth century.

Mazzini foresaw too the present role of the United States as a world power at a time when a man in a stovepipe hat was struggling to navigate a newly emancipated nation through the choppy waters of destiny.

The parallel of history take many forms and shapes. The monument in Central Park begins times and timely.

Retire at 65? That's for Softies!



Anne Inceci, Baltimore cloakmaker who will be 67 in June, receives first retirement check of Baltimore Joint Board from Pres. David Dubinsky, while Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler, Upper South director, looks on. Mrs. Inceci can receive vivid events in 1910 general strike in which she played active role. Luncheon honored 45 retirees, first to receive pension checks in Baltimore cloak market.

At the present state of the cloak industry, Falkman said it merited close study, especially the portion which dealt with the need for preserving employment opportunities for cloak workers in New York.

The recommendation in the report that large section work shops be encouraged in the cheaper and medium line of work to keep this type of production in the city was considered highly significant. While the cutter is not directly affected by section work as such, he has a vital interest in efforts directed toward keeping low-end production in New York, Falkman maintained. Strengthening the fact that the welfare of the cutter was being brought up with that of the other crafts,

JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN HAVE SPARED the President the embarrassment of leaving unfinished the housing developments he helped dedicate. In the final days of March they cut to ribbons the so-called public housing program he favored. But like good businessmen they provided against breach of contract. Homes for which contracts have been let will be completed. That is all.

Thus ends a dream that stirred even the late Sen. Robert A. Taft. He gave strong support to the Housing Act of 1949 which proposed construction of 810,000 units over a six-year period at an average annual rate of 135,000 units. In the light of the nation's desperate need for more and better homes he perceived no threat of creeping socialism, no danger to private builders, no waste of public funds in the program.

But the triumph of Taft's party doomed public housing. In an effort to salvage at least a remnant of the 1949 program, President Eisenhower last January proposed construction of 35,000 housing units annually for the next four years. But even this sorry shadow of the previous plan was too much for the aroused legislators.

Almost one-third of the nation's non-farm families earn less than \$3,000 a year; about 17,000,000 families live in the middle-income bracket. Both of these groups are now trapped between unsteady and slipping incomes, on the one hand and rising rentals in crowded areas on the other. The prospect they face is a sad one, for which the remedy is a steady pounding away at the doors of their elected representatives in Washington and the judicious exercise of the franchise, come November, at the polls.

THE SAME KIND OF DESTRUCTIVE FATE has befallen the President's proposal to provide homes for the brave of other lands seeking entry to our shores. Eight months ago he signed the emergency immigration bill clearing the way for the admission of 214,000 refugee victims of these disjointed times.

The McCarran Act has given the Communists a powerful weapon with which to lose us friends and allies by advertising to the world the discriminatory features of our basic immigration law. But last August the President pushed open the golden gate and reached out a welcoming hand to the thousands soon expected to cross our threshold.

They have not come. Not because they do not wish to come but because a cloud of red tape, suspicion and incompetence has barred their way. Out of the vast hordes yearning to breathe our free air, six refugees have been allowed to enter under the President's program. Fortunately, indeed, must they be for since the President signed the emergency law the government has spent under it \$672,000, or slightly more than \$100,000 per refugee admitted. Neither economy nor humanity has been served.

UNKINDEST CUT

AFL Pres. George Meany has called on labor organizations to join forces in the crucial Congressional battle to win tax relief. "For the man in the street, rather than the wealthy." In a letter to the Federation's affiliates he writes:

"The House of Representatives has adopted a tax revision bill which grants relief in huge amounts to corporations and those receiving income from dividends. The AFL maintains that if taxes can safely be reduced now, first consideration should be given to those in the low-income brackets. We are convinced that mass purchasing power can be stimulated and more prosperous conditions restored if Congress were to vote higher personal income tax exemptions.

"This issue will be coming up soon for debate and action in the Senate. The Union in the Senate will be much closer than in the House where the fight to give tax benefits to the man in the street rather than to the wealthy lost by only six votes. Write or wire your Senators immediately and let them know definitely where labor stands."

"Going, Going!"



"April Fool!"



Power--Private and Public

By
Gordon R. Clapp

From a lecture given at the University of Chicago by the head of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

WE are a people with a profound conviction in the efficacy of competitive enterprise. In specific instances we sometimes forget that private ownership is not synonymous with competitive enterprise. Public ownership is frequently met by strong opposition.

Still, the public systems have done the best job where there has been the greatest drive for widespread use of electricity combined with the strongest contest from the private utilities. In those areas we have an opportunity to judge the effect of competition.

WHAT has been the effect of public power operations upon the surrounding privately owned utilities?

The competitive element public power creates is analyzed by the President's Water Resources Policy Commission studies published in 1950. These studies reveal that in areas in which a federal agency was actively marketing power from river basin developments, the cost of power purchased by rural cooperatives from private companies in the same areas was about half as high as the cost of similar power where no competitive forces were in operation.

Wholesale rates to cooperatives in the private utility areas surrounding the TVA average about three-quarters of a cent, whereas in the Northeast the average rate runs twice as high. The wholesome effects of competition are apparent when one sees successively higher charges as one moves farther and farther from the Northwest and the Tennessee Valley, the two major centers of competition between public and private power.

A similar comparison may be made for residential rates. Today the Tennessee Valley ranks with the Northwest in having the lowest rates for residential use. And now the residential rates charged by private utilities adjacent to the TVA service area are substantially below the rates charged in the North, the East, and in the Middle West.

WHAT has happened to the rate of power capacity expansion in those private utility areas nearest the Tennessee Valley? Has the threat of a public power neighbor, expanding its power capacity about 500 per cent since 1933, scared capital away and frozen the neighboring private utility systems into static paralysis?

On the contrary, low rate policies and inspired merchandising in the Tennessee Valley public power systems have re-

sulted in a notable expansion by neighboring private utilities. The expansion for the nation has been less than 150 per cent since 1933; if the national figures are limited to privately owned systems and adjusted to exclude the private company neighbors of TVA, we find an increase between 1933 and 1952 of only 91 per cent.

But in the eight states adjacent to Tennessee, power capacity owned by private utilities has increased 200 per cent since 1933, when the TVA Act was passed!

In the six New England states where the private utilities are at a safe distance from any effective competition from federal power developments—a fact that suggests one of the reasons why the inviting power potential of the St. Lawrence has been so long delayed—the level of power rates is highest and growth of power supply has been slowest. Power capacity in New England has increased only 75 per cent compared with the 200 per cent among the private companies adjoining TVA.

HOW about the stockholders of the private companies who have suffered, as they say, from the competitive proximity of public power enterprises? Federal Power Commission data show that financial returns have been excellent for those private utilities stifled by neighboring, if not neighborly, public enterprise. TVA's neighbors are making more money now than they did before TVA began to worry them.

The irony of this situation should be apparent. Most utilities could show better earnings if they performed a better public service. Instead of opposing TVA with political slogans and economic dogma, they might prudently espouse a few aggressive centers of public power examples in their midst.

It should be remembered that the electricity business, whoever owns and operates it, is a public business; private corporations engaged in the electric business enjoy privileges granted by the public through law, franchise, or license; these privileges are granted in order that the companies may perform a public service efficiently.

Competition benefits the consumer and the nation. And the record shows competition between the private companies' stockholders a higher dividend. What a challenge to a real spirit of enterprise!